

RE: Proposed Bill No. 5625

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY

Public Health Committee:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you with concerns of proposed bill 5625 an act to amend the definition of surgery. While I applaud the intent of finding ways to make people safer, this bill as proposed has some unintended consequences that need to be addressed.

My primary concern is popular services such as laser hair removal under this bill would be considered "surgery" and thereby need to be performed by a physician. Presently these services are performed by trained nurses.

Should this bill pass as written it would have economic consequences for the many people employed in the dermatology/medical spa industry etc. Nurses presently employed in this field would no longer be needed and likely be terminated from employment. Make no mistake about it, businesses now engaged in laser hair removal will be out of business.

Secondly, many of the people who are seeking laser hair removal are women who would now be forced to see a Medical Doctor. The overwhelming majority of physicians in Connecticut are male according to the Henry Kaiser Family Foundation. At a minimum this would create an uncomfortable situation for many women seeking hair removal in areas of the body many would consider private.

Connecticut's staggering economy cannot afford to lose more jobs and the potential tax revenue from these services that could be in question. I would ask that your committee request a study from the office of fiscal analysis to determine the full economic impact of this bill. A more simple solution would be removing the word "lasers" from this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Yours,

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